

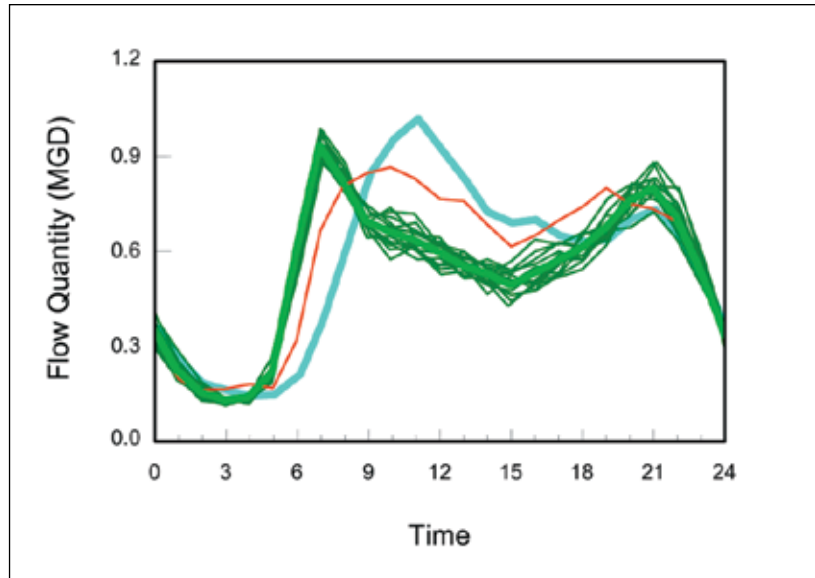
*sew-ēr sō-ci-ōl-ō-gy, the science of society, social institutions, and social relationships viewed through the eyes of a sewer; specifically the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective sewer use of organized groups of human beings.*

## Veterans Day Sewer Flows

Kevin L. Enfinger and Patrick L. Stevens

Most sewer flows are characterized by repeatable diurnal patterns that vary across weekdays, weekends, and holidays. Differences in land use are also apparent, and distractions and disruptions of daily life can often be observed. This month, we salute our veterans and take a closer look at sewer flows on Veterans Day.

A composite hydrograph of flow monitor data from a residential area is shown in the figure (right). Weekdays are shown in green; weekends are shown in blue, and Veterans Day is shown in red. From a sewer sociologist's perspective, the distinguishing feature of Veterans Day is the timing of the morning rise in sewer



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flow — occurring later than a typical weekday, but earlier than a typical weekend. This feature occurs because most government employees have the day off, and students are out of school for the day. However, many employees in the private sector do not necessarily have the day off. Those with the day off treat the day as a weekend. Those who have to work treat the day as a weekday. Therefore, sewer use in the residential area measured is a “blended” variation of weekday and weekend sewer use.

A similar effect is observed on other government holidays such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Presidents Day. As one might expect, the shift in Veterans Day sewer flows is more pronounced in communities with a strong military presence.

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## Looking Ahead

### Coming up in the December issue ...

#### TRA CREWSers Maintain Operations Challenge Title

The Trinity River Authority CREWSers from the Water Environment Association of Texas earned their fourth Division 1 win in 5 years at Operations Challenge.09 in Orlando, Fla. In addition to taking home the title, the CREWSers also earned trophies in four of the five events.

The Windy City Wizards from the Illinois Water Environment Association took home the Division 2 title. This year marked only the third time the Wizards have competed at the national event.

#### Also in the December issue...

- Do Your Homework: There are many factors to consider when establishing a successful heat-dried biosolids program
- Good for a Rainy Day: Changes in primary clarifier design and chemical dosing strategy optimize performance
- Fueling the Future: California utility reaps success with fuel cells
- Biosolids by the Book: The advantages of a land application certification program
- Future Strides: Developing a roadmap to the wastewater treatment plant of tomorrow

